

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COA-02 L-03

IO-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 CEQ-02

INT-08 SMI-01 AGR-20 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 101151Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7212

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS OSLO 3749

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON TBIO JA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

REF: STATE 195835, STATE 195848

1. UPON ADVICE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIVISION CHIEF, FRODE NILSEN, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHALING, EMBASSY BROUGHT JAPANESE NOTE AND U.S. POSITION ON IT DIRECTLY TO ATTENTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL SVERRE GJELLUM. NILSEN ADVISED EMBASSY TO GO TO GJELLUM, WHO IS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO WHALING AND TO STRENGTHENING OF IWC.

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2. GJELLUM SAID THAT NORWAY HAD SUPPORTED THE IWC DECISIONS ON MINKE AND SPERM WHALES BUT HAD ABSTAINED WITH 4 OTHER IWC MEMBERS ON THE DECISION ON FIN WHALES OUT OF CONCERN THAT DECISION MIGHT PROVE TOO STRINGENT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE JAPANESE AND RUSSIANS AND MIGHT BE DAMAGING TO THE IWC IF THOSE COUNTRIES EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT OF OBJECTION. NORWAY SUPPORTED CONSERVATION AND HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME OVER THE USE OF MARITIME RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY WHERE THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION MEASURES WAS SCIENTIFICALLY CODUMENTED. HOWEVER, SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT WHALES WAS IMPRECISE, AND NORWAY HAD HOPED SOME LESS STRINGENT COMPROMISE COULD BE ADOPTED.

3. GJELLUM SAID THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON LEVELS OF WHALE CONSERVATION BETWEEN THE FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES. HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THESE MINISTRIES AND NORWEGIAN CHAIRMAN OF IWC RINDAL, WHO IS NOW CONSUL GENERAL IN ANTWERP, BEFORE HE COULD REPLY TO U.S. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT VIS-A-VIS JAPANESE. BYRNE

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: OCON, TBIO, JA, IWC-1
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